

### III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format, the text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified.

#### Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles comprising:  
magnetic particles to be suspended in a liquid, wherein the magnetic particles are capable of directly or indirectly capturing a target substance suspended in the liquid,

a liquid suction passage in which liquid can pass through only in a suction direction;

a liquid discharge passage in which liquid can pass through only in a discharge direction;

magnetic force means ~~which can~~ operable to selectively exert or not exert a magnetic field from outside of at least one of the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage on at least one of the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage thereof or remove the magnetic field, and which can separate the magnetic particles having directly or indirectly captured a target substance suspended in the liquid by having causing the magnetic particles to adhere to the inner wall of the said at least one of the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage;

a storage section ~~communicated~~ communicating with each the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage, for storing the sucked liquid; and

pressure adjustment means for sucking and discharging the liquid by adjusting the pressure in the storage section,

wherein said storage section is provided detachably with respect to said pressure adjustment means, and a liquid whose volume is larger than the maximum volume capable of being sucked into or discharged from the storage section at the time of ~~only either one of~~ suction or discharge, is continually passed through the storage section so that the magnetic particles are separated.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 1, wherein said liquid suction passage and said liquid discharge passage are provided in parallel spaced-apart relationship to each other with a space, so as to protrude downward below said storage section, with said pressure adjustment means provided above said storage section.

Claim 3 (Original): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein said liquid suction passage and said liquid discharge passage are formed substantially in a two-stage form with a tip portion having a small diameter and a large-diameter portion, respectively.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 3 1, wherein said magnetic force means ~~is obtained by providing~~ comprises a permanent magnet, an electromagnet or a magnetic substance outside of at least one of said the liquid passages suction passage and the liquid discharge passage.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 3 1, wherein said storage section has a cylinder, and said pressure adjustment means has a plunger slidably inserted into said cylinder ~~so as to slide therein~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to ~~claims 2 and 3~~ claim 1, wherein said pressure adjustment means has an air flow path provided in said storage section, and a pump for performing suction and discharge of a gas in said storage section via said air flow path.

7. (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 1, further comprising a pipette tip, wherein said pipette tip is adapted for mounting on said pressure adjustment means when said storage section is detached from said pressure adjustment means, ~~said pressure adjustment means can be mounted with one pipette tip, in which and~~

wherein the liquid can pass through said pipette in both ~~in~~ the suction direction and the discharge direction.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 3 1, wherein hydroxyapatite is sintered and secured to said magnetic particles, and ~~the pH of the solution~~ liquid containing the magnetic particles suspended therein has a pH, wherein the pH of the liquid is adjusted to change the hydroxyapatite to a sol form or a gel form, ~~to thereby make whereby~~ the hydroxyapatite ~~capture~~ captures or ~~alienate~~ alienates the target substance.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles comprising:  
magnetic particles to be suspended in a liquid, wherein the magnetic particles are capable of directly or indirectly capturing a target substance suspended in the liquid,

a liquid passage having a separate suction port and a separate discharge port, in which liquid can pass therethrough;

magnetic force means ~~which can~~ operable to selectively exert or not exert a magnetic field from outside of the liquid passage to ~~inside of~~ a part of the liquid passage, which can separate magnetic particles having directly or indirectly captured a target substance suspended in the liquid, by ~~having~~ causing the magnetic particles to adhere to an inner wall of the part of the liquid passage; and

a pump provided between the suction port and the discharge port in the liquid passage, for transferring the liquid along a transfer direction of the liquid in the liquid passage,

wherein at least the part of the liquid passage is ~~provided so as~~ adapted to be ~~able to be taken out~~ removed from the concentration device, while ~~attracting~~ the separated magnetic particles are adhered to the inner wall of the part of the liquid passage.

Claim 11 (Original): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to claim 10, wherein a switchover mechanism for switching over the liquid passage in order to re-suspend and discharge the separated magnetic particles is provided in the middle of the liquid passage.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A concentration device using magnetic particles according to any one of claim 10 to claim 11, wherein hydroxyapatite is sintered and secured to said magnetic particles, and ~~the pH of the solution liquid~~ liquid containing the magnetic particles suspended therein has a pH, wherein the pH of the liquid is adjusted to change the hydroxyapatite to a sol form or a gel form, ~~to thereby make~~ whereby the hydroxyapatite ~~capture~~ captures or ~~alienate~~ alienates the target substance.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A concentration system using magnetic particles comprising:  
magnetic particles to be suspended in a liquid, wherein the magnetic particles are capable of directly or indirectly capturing a target substance suspended in the liquid,

a liquid suction passage in which liquid can pass through only in a suction direction,  
a liquid discharge passage in which liquid can pass through only in a discharge direction,  
magnetic force means operable to selectively exert or not exert a magnetic field from outside of at least one of the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage on at least one of the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage, and which can separate the magnetic particles by causing the magnetic particles to adhere to the inner wall of said at least one of the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage,

a storage section communicating with the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage, for storing the sucked liquid, and

a pressure adjustment means for sucking and discharging the liquid by adjusting the pressure in the storage section;

wherein said storage section is provided detachably with respect to said pressure adjustment means, and a liquid whose volume is larger than the maximum volume capable of being sucked into or discharged from the storage section at the time of one of suction or discharge, is continually passed through the storage section, so that the magnetic particles are separated;

~~a shift means capable of shifting the concentration device itself and/or a container mounted outside of the concentration device; and~~

a control means for controlling the operation of at least one of the liquid drive means, pressure adjustment means and the magnetic force means and/or the shift means.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A concentration system using magnetic particles according to claim 14: wherein further comprising,

a said container has two tanks having a first tank and a second tank separated by a partition, wherein a bottom portion of the first tank inclines toward the partition and a bottom portion of the second tank inclines toward the partition,

wherein the liquid suction passage further comprises a suction port and the liquid discharge passage further comprises a discharge port, the suction port and the discharge port being spaced apart a distance greater than the thickness of the partition; and

wherein into which the suction port of the liquid suction passage and the discharge port of the liquid discharge passage are respectively inserted, a thickness of a partition section for separating the two tanks being formed thinner than a distance between the suction port and the discharge port, and a bottom portion of each liquid receiving section has a slope of downward inclination toward the partition section in the first tank and the second tank.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A concentration system using magnetic particles according to claim 14, wherein said control means controls the concentration system so as to suck from a first container storing a first volume of a suspension, in which the magnetic particles having directly or indirectly captured the target substance are suspended, and pass the suspension through the liquid suction passage and the liquid discharge passage, with the magnetic force means exerting a magnetic field from outside to the liquid suction passage and/or the liquid discharge passage, to thereby attract the magnetic particles to the inner wall of the liquid suction passage and/or the liquid discharge passage and separate the magnetic particles, and

so as to insert said suction port and said discharge port into a second container where a second volume of liquid is stored, the second volume being smaller than said first volume, and to suck and discharge the second volume of liquid to effect re-suspension to thereby increase the concentration of the suspension containing the target substance ~~such as bacteria~~ suspended therein, without exerting the magnetic field by the magnetic force means.

Claims 17-22 (Canceled)